

REMARKS

Amended drawings are provided by the Applicant that overcome the drawing objections. Claims 1-5 and 10 are amended.

A screw thread means is shown in Figure 1 and is described as a thread 41 in paragraph [0020] of the specification, for example. Claim 4 is amended to clarify that the “screw thread means” couples the insertion pin to the holder. Thus, the drawings show examples of every feature recited in the claims.

Claim objections are overcome by amendments to claims 1 and 5.

The amendments to claim 1 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the amendments to claims 2-5, and 10 address formalities.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate some of the limitations of claim 2, also.

Amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Krauss, DE-10,053,200, because Krauss fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 1, exactly as recited in amended claim 1.

Specifically, Krause discloses a linking head 30 that is fixed in a linking cup 22. The linking head 30 is not part of a pin but is attached to a piston element 28 that fits into a receptor 40. The fastening element of Krause does not have “a locking means for locking the support flange within the retainer mounted on the structure, when the insertion pin activates the locking means.” Krause fails to disclose that the linking head 30 “activates the locking device,” as is the case for the insertion pin of claim 1. Instead, two disks 15, 17 act to fix the binding member 12 to the structure 20. Thus, the binding member 12 is not capable of being activated by the insertion pin. While the two disks 15, 17 might be considered a support flange, they are not clamped in any retainer by activation of any locking means.

Paragraph [0007] of the Applicant’s specification discloses that “the insertion trunnion or pin is arranged such that when it snaps into the attachment position of the receiver it activates mechanical or hydraulic devices that firmly clamp the support flange in the retainer on

the structure.” Claim 2, as amended, further limits the locking means according to the language recited. This has the advantage of fixing the xy-plane position at the same time that the insertion pin snaps into place, which is a two-step process of insertion and activation. None of the references cited in the Office Action disclose the mechanism recited in claim 2, as amended.

Krause discloses no locking means or locking mechanisms that activate when a pin is snapped into place. For at least this reason, Krause fails to anticipate claims 1 and 2. Therefore, Krause fails to establish *prima facie* anticipation of claim 1.

Now considering obviousness, the locking means or mechanism and activation of the locking means or mechanism by insertion of a pin snapped into a recess of the receiver provides a new connection element that has features not suggested in any of the cited references. The features are not a predictable combination of any known features. Instead, the connection element is a completely new device for attaching components to supporting structures having a retainer mounted thereon. The trunnion and elastically deformable soft material of the receiver provide activation of a locking means by a two-step-fastening mechanism not previously known for aircraft connection elements. Thus, by snapping the insertion pin into the receiver, the support flange of the receiver of the connection element is clamped to the structure, but until the pin activates the locking device, the support flange is permitted to adjust its position relative to the structure. Nothing in Krause teaches or suggests this type of activation of a locking device for the support flange of the receiver by any other mechanism or part of the fastener. No person of ordinary skill in the art would consider modifying the fastener of Krause to add an activation mechanism of this type.

To be clear, the fastener of Krause must first fasten the binding member 12 to the structure 20 using the disks 15, 17 to hold the binding member 12 to the structure 20 or by any other locking means. There is no separate locking device activated by insertion of a pin to fasten the binding member 12 to the retainer 21 of the structure 20. There is no reason to suggest any modification of this type to the fastener of Krause.

The Office Action fails to establish *prima facie* anticipation or *prima facie* obviousness over claim 1, because it omits any disclosure, teaching or suggestion of a locking means activated by an insertion pin.

All of the other pending claims incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1 and additional limitations; therefore, all of the other pending claims are allowable over Krause.

Now regarding claims 4 and 5, the pin does not comprise a screw thread. An amendment to claim 4 clarifies that the pin is coupled to a holder by a screw thread means. There is no reason to modify the teachings of Krause to use a screw thread means for adjusting the position of the pin in the Z-translational direction. No references are cited or reasons given why a person of ordinary skill in the art would combine a screw thread means with the limitations as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the Office Action fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness over claim 4. Claim 5, as amended, depends from claim 4 and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 4 and adds an anchorage part that is not taught or suggested by Krause. Therefore, Krause fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness over claim 5.

Now referring to Bertram, there is no motivation to combine Bertram and Krause. Even if some motivation existed, Bertram fails to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1 omitted by Krause; therefore claim 9 is allowable over both Bertram and Krause.

The Applicant appreciates the indication of allowance of claims 3, 6 and 8 if rewritten in independent form; however, amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments.

Allowance of all claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Paradies', is written over a horizontal line.

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